

HONDA

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.
1919 Torrance Boulevard • Torrance, CA 90501-2746
(310) 783-2000

October 17, 2001

01V-329 ① of ④

Mr. Kenneth Weinstein,
Associate Administrator
Office of Safety Assurance
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADMINISTRATION
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

RECEIVED
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DEFECTS OFFICE INVESTIGATION

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

On October 12, 2001, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

573.5(c)(1)

Name of manufacturer: Honda of Canada Manufacturing, Inc. (HCM)

Manufacturer's Agent: William R. Willen
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

573.5(c)(2)

Identification of potentially affected vehicles:

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VIN/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Honda Civic Sedan	Certain 2001 model year	2HGES16201H615287 to 2HGES16571H617435
	Certain 2002 model year	2HGES26862H508286 to 2HGES16512H510382 August 17, 2001; August 21-22, 2001; September 27, 2001; and October 4, 2001

Description of the basis for the determination of the recall population:

An associate new to the process used an improper assembly procedure for five, nonconsecutive shifts. Only vehicles with air cleaner assemblies installed by this associate are affected.

573.5(c)(3)

Total number of vehicles potentially affected:

295

573.5(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect:

Unknown

573.5(c)(5)

Defect description:

Summary

During the assembly process, the plastic cover for the air cleaner assembly may have been damaged. If a broken plastic piece becomes loose inside the intake chamber and lodges in the throttle body, it could result in a partially open throttle condition. If the vehicle continues to maintain speed when the driver is expecting it to slow, a crash could occur.

Detail

During assembly, an impact wrench was improperly used to tap the air cleaner assembly into place. The blow could have broken a plastic rib on the air cleaner cover (see figure A below). The broken plastic piece could lodge in the throttle body (see figure B below) and cause the throttle to remain partially open, even though the driver has removed his or her foot from the accelerator pedal. If the vehicle continues to maintain speed when the driver is expecting it to slow, a crash could occur.



Fig. A: Area of air cleaner cover damage

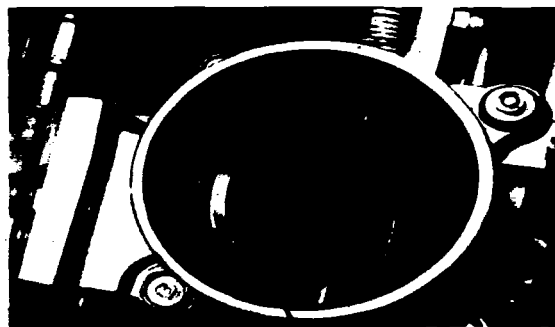


Fig. B: Broken plastic piece in throttle body

573.5(c)(6)

Chronology:

Oct. 5, 2001	HCM discovered an engine high idle problem during final inspection and initiated an investigation.
Oct. 11, 2001	HCM finalized the investigation and reported to HMC.
Oct. 12, 2001	HMC determined that a safety-related defect exists and reported to NHTSA by telephone.

573.5(c)(8)(i)

Program for remedying the defect:

The owners of all affected vehicles will be notified by mail and asked to take their vehicle to an authorized Honda dealer. The dealer will inspect the air cleaner assembly for damage. If damage is found, the dealer will install a new air cleaner cover and inspect the intake system to locate the broken plastic piece. This work will be performed free of charge.

573.5(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners: Oct. 25, 2001

The estimated date to begin sending notifications to dealers: Oct. 22, 2001

The estimated date of completion of the notification: Oct. 25, 2001

573.5(c)(9)

Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:

A copy of the dealer service bulletin and text of the final customer notification letter will be submitted to your office as soon as possible.

573.5(c)(10)

Proposed owner notification letter submission:

A draft of the owner notification was sent to your office for review on Oct. 16, 2001.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'William R. Willen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William R. Willen
Managing Counsel
Product Regulatory Office

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